

Useful Hints

Woman and Home

Ethical Talks

The Morning Story

HER PORTION OF LABOR.
By Constance Lee.

"Gerald!" Ann's voice threatened tears.

"Forgive me, dear, but you militants are rather funny, that's all," Gerald Ford tossed aside the newspaper he had been reading, and laid strong, sunburned fingers on his sweetheart's arm.

Ann shrugged his hand away. He stared straight ahead through the trees where the river flashed a silver streak at the foot of the garden.

Ann's lovely dark face was sulky. Suddenly her red lips parted in indignant protest of Gerald's scornful attitude toward her whole-souled interest in the suffrage movement.

"I thought you were in sympathy with me, Gerald," she said coldly. "You know how much this means to me and yet you never lose an opportunity to poke fun at it—and me!"

"My dear girl!" he protested. "I wish I could persuade you to look at it in my way—there are so many—enormous—that a woman can better adjust by retaining her present status—her influence is so heavy in certain directions pertaining to the home and her children, if she cares to exert it. Instead of that she overlooks the duties close at hand and is fighting for tasks that men are better fitted for by reason—"

"How about the unmarried woman?" out in Ann frigidly. "The girl who takes her place in the business world? Hasn't she the right to choose a place in the government of her country if she wishes?"

"I suppose so," admitted Gerald, reluctantly, "but she is better off married, believe me!"

Ann got up with a little air of decision.

"I've changed my mind about joining the ranks of the married women who should have no say in the laws that govern the lives of their families. Now, I am quite free to go out in the world and assume my portion of labor, and insist upon my rights to vote!"

Gerald's dazed eyes beheld Ann's straight young form running lightly down the steps. Then his gaze dropped to the sparkling diamond ring that she had left in his palm.

He realized that he was no longer engaged to Ann Dalton, and that beautiful Miss Dalton was quite free to mount a soap box and thunder forth pleas for women's rights to vote.

Suddenly the summer weeks that had seemed so beautiful to him, appeared like a dream. A chill was in the air and the bright summer home seemed bleak and drear.

It was all because he and Ann no longer belonged to each other.

It was November, and Gerald was dictating the last of his letters to his stenographer, Miss Pinney. When she had gathered notebook and pencil and various memoranda, Miss Pinney adjusted her eyeglasses and informed Gerald that she wished to resign her position the following week.

"I'm sorry," said Gerald, frankly. "Are you going to be married, Miss Pinney?"

The brown little woman essayed a blush, and admitted the romantic fact. She even added that the head book-keeper, Mr. Breen, was to play the part of the happy bridegroom.

"And you don't regret my regret at giving up your freedom and confiding your talents to the care of a home?" he asked.

Miss Pinney blushed again, and waved a gesture of protest around the office. "I hate it all!" Then she added wistfully: "It is so nice to be taken care of!"

When he was alone Gerald stared moodily from the window. Suppose Ann had thought the same thing—that it was good to be protected? They would have been married by this time; they would have taken up her portion of labor—the making of a cozy home for them both.

"When a woman steps out of her sphere to compete with men in business, some man's hands hang!" growled Gerald as he slammed down his desk in a very bad temper.

The next morning he directed Mr. Breen to advertise for another stenographer, and his absence from town for the last half of the week quickly drove from his mind the fact that he would have to readjust the routine of his office.

Monday morning he entered his office, and hanging up his overcoat and hat, pressed the button for Miss Pinney.

"Good morning, Miss Pinney," he said, without looking up. "I've a heap of letters here, and—"

"Er—good morning," said a hostile voice.

Gerald lifted his head and gazed in mingled joy and wrath at the sight of Ann Dalton standing there in his office, looking adorable in a trim black cloth skirt and white shirtwaist.

Ann Dalton was his new stenographer.

"Ah!" said Gerald, at last. "I had forgotten Miss Pinney was leaving last week. I presume, Miss Dalton, you are familiar with the details of a business office?"

"I am a graduate of the Luckie Business College," said Ann, haughtily.

"You should be very efficient then," said Gerald, with deadly courtesy. "Please be seated, Miss Dalton."

"And he never even placed a chair for me!" cried Ann to her mirror that night when she reached home.

"And the horrid, horrid brute dictated so rapidly—and was so snippy because I made a few mistakes in his wretched old letters! And then—then—" breathlessly, for this was the crowning insult of all. "Then, while I sat there, that caty Sue Hereford telephoned him to come to dinner tonight, and he laughed and jested with her while—"

"And then the defender of a business life for women threw herself on her bed and cried."

Later she sat up and dried her eyes. "The way to votes for women lies over my bleeding heart! I'll take that way!" she cried tragically. "I hate him!"

Gerald Ford had always been considered a kind employer, but there was a change of opinion in his office as the weeks passed by and his severity toward petty Miss Dalton began to be noticed. He had never been so

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dictatorial, and he laid down more rules than Ann could remember in her pretty head.

"I'd leave if I was you," volunteered Miss Murphy, of the outside office.

"I've heard he was crossed in love," went on Miss Murphy. "It might have been that stunning Miss Hereford who comes up here sometimes to consult him about her mother's affairs."

Ann said nothing, but a jealous anger took possession of her heart. She was mortified to discover that her mind dwelt more on Gerald Ford than it did upon the burning question of feminine rights, and the first glow of triumph that had followed her successful answer to Mr. Breen's advertisement had been dimmed by Gerald's unexpected aloofness. His manner to her was stern and businesslike in the extreme, and instead of tantalizing him by her daily presence in his office, she herself was most unhappy.

Daily she heard him talking over the telephone, making appointments with men and women of their own set, only to turn to her at last, curtly dictate some stupid letter, and closing his desk for the day, rush off to some pleasure.

Added to these woes was the disapproval of her usually indulgent parents. They knew the fact that their only daughter forsake them to toil in a dinky office.

It was a disagreeable day in January. Ann hated to leave the coziness of her own little sitting room, with its glowing fire and inviting idleness of easy chairs and new books.

Everything went wrong that morning. She was late at the office and

Gerald had spoken rather sharply, reminding her of the hour. Then her pencil point had snapped suddenly, and she jotted down her shorthand notes. He sharpened it for her.

"You should be provided with several pencils," he said reprovingly. "Miss Penney was extremely businesslike in such matters and—"

It was at this moment that Ann Dalton arose, and deliberately threw her notebook at her employer's head. His eyeglasses flew one way and his dignity another.

He caught her slender arms and held her rigidly.

"Ann, you little termagant!" he breathed quickly.

"Let me go!" she gasped. "If you knew how I hated you, Gerald Ford, you would let me go! If you dare say the word 'business' to me again—"

She broke down and sobbed bitterly. Gerald smiled tenderly down at her forlorn little figure. He did not loosen his hold. "I need a wife—more than do a stenographer," he whispered.

"Can't you be content to do your portion of labor in our home, Ann, darling?"

Ann's answer was not audible, but Miss Murphy who had put her head into the room for an inquiring instant, darted out to the main office.

"Mr. Breen—you'll have to advertise for another stenographer," she giggled. "Miss Dalton's going to be married!"

"Who told you?" asked a dozen eager voices.

"I'm not blind!" was Miss Murphy's retort.

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These are only a couple of suggestions to illustrate my statement that care of the complexion is not necessarily costly in dollars and cents but there must be an expenditure of energy. In the application of any lotion there is necessity for an expenditure of time and patience. You should soak a clean cloth in making applications. This cloth should be turned so that the dirt it removes will not be rubbed back into the skin.

You might go through the whole list of articles necessary for a complete toilet table and find that they are acceptable substitutes, can be supplied by a small outlay of money, but after they are in your possession it will be necessary to expend considerably energy to make good use of them.

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Energy Most Necessary

BY LILLIAN RUSSELL.

The care of the complexion is really more than a matter of vanity. It is more than in dollars and cents that the tonics and cosmetics, can be secured at a minimum cost, and the expenditure of energy than the monetary outlay.

It is possible to connect excellent lotions and cosmetics in your own home at a low cost. Indeed, the vegetable ingredients which are invariably recommended by beauty experts are not at all costly. I have in mind, for instance, cucumber juice. This is an excellent astringent and bleach, and few realize how cheaply it can be placed at their command.

The vegetable must first be washed and dried. Then it should be cut in small pieces, skin and all, and dried. Place the cucumber in a small clean saucepan and add a tablespoonful of water. The pan should then be placed over a slight heat until the vegetable juice begins to leave the cucumber. When enough juice has been extracted, place the pan over a hotter fire. As soon as the liquid begins to simmer, the whole should be removed from the fire and pressed through a piece of cheese cloth. Dilute the juice with twice the quantity of water and place it in a bottle. If the pure juice appears too dry, the whole water can be substituted for the rain water. This lotion will harden the skin and protect it against the ravages of wind